

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 15, 2008**

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) was held on October 15, 2008, at the American Legion Department of Virginia Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

**Members Present**

- Mason Botts, *Air Force Association*
- Robert Gray, *American Ex-POWs*
- Connie O'Neill, *American Legion*
- Samuel Wilder, *AUSA*
- Daniel Miller, *Disabled American Veterans*
- John Dozier, *Korean War Veterans Association*
- Richard Rinaldo, *Legion of Valor*
- John Bonnell, *Marine Corps League*
- Norman Jasper, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*
- Bill Townsley, *MOWW*
- David Ellis, *NAUS*
- Richard Schneider, *Non-Commissioned Officers Association*
- Thomas Stephen, *Reserve Officers Association*
- Frank Sherman, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*
- Mike Coleman, *Virginia National Guard Association*
- Daniel Boyer, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*
- Michala Smith, *WAVES*
- Jenny Holbert, *Women Marines Association*
- Vince Burgess, *Commissioner of Veterans Services*

**Members Absent**

- James Aucoin, *AMVETS*
- Thomas Snee, *Fleet Reserve Association*
- Wes Edwards, *MOAA*
- John Jackson, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*
- Paul Galanti, *Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services*
- Frank Wickersham, *Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation*

**Alternates Present (representing their Veterans Service Organization)**

- John Cooper, *AMVETS*
- Don Kaiserman, *MOAA*
- David Coffield, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*

### **Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)**

- Phillip Stoneman, *AUSA*
- Carmen Gentile, *Reserve Officers Association*

### **Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present**

- Don Ferguson, *Office of the Attorney General*
- Stephen Parker, *Office of the Secretary of Public Safety*
- Jon Hatfield, *Virginia War Memorial*
- Anne Atkins, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Steven Combs, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Jack Hilgers, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Akia Penalvel, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Judy Reid, *Department of Veterans Services*
- Catherine Wilson, *Department of Veterans Services*

### **Others Present**

- Frank Driscoll, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*
- David Edwards, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*
- Harry Warner, *Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation*
- Charlie Sloan, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*

### **Agenda Packet**

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes of the August 13, 2008 Meeting
- Veterans Services Foundation Chairman's Report
- Department of Veterans Services Commissioner's Report
- Governor's FY2009 Budget Reduction Plan, Page 55
- DVS Point Paper on the Missing in America Project
- Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations' Constitution, with proposed changes
- Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations' By-Laws, with proposed changes
- Virginia Wounded Warrior Program FAQ Sheet
- Report: RAC/MOAA Initial "Group Legislative Event"
- Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations – Summary of 2009 Legislative Objectives and Point Papers
- Veterans of Foreign Wars – Partnership for Medicare Benefits
- Virginian-Pilot article – "State balks at effort to ease military kids' transitions," dated October 11, 2008

### **Opening and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Boyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination**

Nineteen of 22 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the JLC were recorded as being represented (17 by a primary member; 2 by an alternate member), and a quorum was determined. Michala Smith and John Cooper arrived later, bringing the total to 21 of 22 VSOs represented. The Commissioner of Veterans Services was recorded as present, as was Thad Jones, representing the Board of Veterans Services.

Alternate JLC members and other guests were asked to introduce themselves and the Council welcomed the alternates and guests.

### **Review and Approval of August 13, 2008 meeting minutes**

Led by Chairman Boyer

Chairman Boyer asked the Council to review the draft minutes of the August 13, 2008 meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

### **Reports**

#### **Board of Veterans Services Report**

In BVS Chairman Paul Galanti's absence, BVS Vice Chairman Thad Jones delivered the report of the Board of Veterans Services. He reported that the BVS had been well briefed on the JLC's 2009 Legislative Objectives, and thanked the JLC on behalf of the BVS for taking the lead in advancing veterans issues.

#### **Veterans Services Foundation Report**

Chairman Boyer noted that VSF Chairman Frank Wickersham was not in attendance. He read the written support submitted by Mr. Wickersham. That report is included as Attachment 1 to these minutes.

#### **Department of Veterans Services Report**

Commissioner Burgess delivered the report of the Department of Veterans Services. That report is included as Attachment 2 to these minutes.

Commissioner Burgess covered the state budget reductions. He noted that:

- The budget cuts are to the DVS programs funded by the General Fund – a total of \$586,689
- DVS faces a budget cut of approximately 7%. This is on top of 5% and 2% budget cuts already made
- DVS will cut one administrative position and will hold other positions vacant
- The funding for TurboVet was cut by \$50,000. Commissioner Burgess said that he felt that DVS could still accomplish the goals of the joint development project with the National Defense University and Stratizon

Connie O'Neill asked if any benefit service offices would be closed. Commissioner Burgess replied that it was his goal to protect core agency services, including keeping the benefit service offices open.

Sam Wilder asked about the ratio of claims agents to veterans, and whether that number had increased with the increased number of veterans. Steven Combs replied that the Code of Virginia establishes a ratio of one claims agent to approximately 26,000 veterans. Mr. Combs noted that the current veteran population was approximately 810,000 and that DVS had 31 claims agent positions, meeting the requirements of the Code.

### **Virginia War Memorial Report**

Virginia War Memorial Executive Director Jon Hatfield

Mr. Hatfield reminded the Council that Virginia War Memorial now fell under the Secretary of Public Safety and that DVS was now providing administrative support. He also noted that JLC member Sam Wilder was recently appointed to the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees.

Mr. Hatfield covered these topics:

- The "Virginians at War" series of oral history films, which are distributed to Virginia's middle and high schools
- Fundraising progress towards the construction of the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center. He reported that \$1,925,000 had been raised to date, leaving just \$125,000 to go to meet the \$2,050,000 goal. He thanked the VSOs that have supported the fundraising effort and asked for their continued support to raise the final \$125,000
- Construction of the Center will begin in the first quarter of 2009
- The Virginia War Memorial will seek approximately \$1 million from the 2009 General Assembly to purchase the furnishings and equipment for the Center

### **Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee**

On behalf of committee members Connie O'Neill and Dan Miller, Mason Botts delivered the report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee.

Mr. Botts thoroughly reviewed each of the suggested changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. While most of the suggestions were agreed upon with little or no comment, there was extensive discussion on such items as the duties of the legislative officer and legislative committee and the number of terms a chairman may serve.

Mr. Botts stated that the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee would incorporate the discussion into the set of proposed changes that will be sent to the members at least one month prior to the December meeting. He reminded the Council that the proposed changes will be voted on at December meeting.

The changes proposed by the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee, as presented at the October 15, 2008 meeting, are included as Attachment 3 and Attachment 4 to these minutes.

## **Presentations**

### **Virginia Wounded Warrior Program Fundraising**

In Jack Hilgers' absence, Chairman Boyer briefed the members on recent fundraising activities in support of the VWWP. He noted that the Veterans Services Foundation had partnered with the Lakeview Golf Course in Harrisonburg to host a golf tournament which raised more than \$24,000.

Chairman Boyer challenged the members to go to their Veterans Service Organization and secure a commitment of financial support for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program. He stated that the VFW has issued a challenge to the 163 VFW Posts in Virginia to raise \$10,000. He said that this money would be matched up to \$10,000 by the VFW Department of Virginia, for a total commitment of up to \$20,000.

He reiterated his challenge to all VSOs represented on the JLC – large and small – to pledge some level of financial support to the VWWP. He said that at the December meeting he would ask each VSO to report on their organization's commitment to supporting the VWWP. He emphasized that the VSOs need to get behind the VWWP and do all they can to support VWWP fundraising efforts.

Mr. Wilder asked about the fundraising conducted by Joan Washburn and the Military Family Support Centers, Inc. (MFSC) in support of the VWWP, specifically, how much had been raised and how much had been donated to the VWWP. Mr. Combs replied that the Veterans Services Foundation has yet to receive a report or a check from the MFSC.

Mr. Wilder then asked when the report and the check would be received, to which Mr. Combs replied that the MFSC hasn't provided a date when the report and the check would be delivered. Mr. Wilder said that it was his understanding that Mr. Hilgers had met with officials of the MFSC. Commissioner Burgess added that the meeting did take place, but that Ms. Washburn was still in the process of clearing the books for the MFSC-sponsored events.

Mr. Combs stated that as soon as the MFSC report was received, DVS would share the information with the JLC. He reminded the members that the Foundation had hosted two events in cooperation with the Lakeview Golf Course, and that those events had brought in almost \$30,000.

Mr. Wilder stated that he thought that the MFSC-sponsored events might bring in close to \$100,000. Commissioner Burgess said that DVS also expects a significant donation from the MFSC, but that no money has been received to date.

Ms. Smith asked about the Foundation's status as a non-profit organization. Mr. Combs replied that the Foundation was not a non-profit, as it was a state organization, but that donations made to the Foundation were tax exempt under federal and state law.

### **Virginia Wounded Warrior Program**

Commissioner Burgess introduced Cathy Wilson, Executive Director of the Virginia Wounded

Warrior Program (VWWP). Ms. Wilson thanked the JLC for “breathing life into the VWWP,” and covered these topics:

- Her background in the U.S. Navy
- Recent hiring of an Executive Assistant
- Planned hiring of three Regional Directors
- Initial focus of the VWWP will be on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) but the program will look at additional services that should be provided to Virginia veterans
- The “Painting a Moving Train” training event planned for November 6 and 7
- Planned distribution of at least \$1 million in the form of community grants

### **RAC-MOAA Legislative Breakfast**

Don Kaiserman reported on the legislative breakfast held by the Richmond Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (RAC-MOAA). Mr. Kaiserman’s report is included as Attachment 5 to these minutes.

Commissioner Burgess added that DVS will have a display in the General Assembly building the week of January 19, and noted that there might be an opportunity for the JLC to participate with DVS. It was noted that the JLC Day at the General Assembly was on January 19, so there may be an opportunity to partner with DVS.

### **JLC 2009 Legislative Objectives**

Chairman Boyer pointed the members to the summary of the JLC 2009 Legislative Objectives and supporting position papers, then reviewed the sponsors for each legislative item:

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
• TurboVet System	AUSA
• Homeless Veterans Study	American Legion
• Burial Vaults for Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries	VFW
• Real Estate Tax Relief for 100% Disabled Veterans	DAV
• Interstate Compact on Ed. Opportunities for Military Children	MOAA
• Military Family Relief Fund	VNGA

He asked the sponsors if any of the positions papers needed to be updated – all said that no changes were required.

Chairman Boyer told the Council that the JLC’s legislative objectives had been presented to the Virginia Citizen-Soldier Support Council (VCSSC) and the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC). He said that the VCSSC had voted to endorse four of the six JLC objectives. The VCSSC did not endorse the Homeless Veterans Study and the Burial Vaults because the VCSSC members felt that those two objectives were beyond the scope of the VCSSC.

Chairman Boyer stated that he had briefed the JLC Legislative Objectives to the Board of Veterans Services at the October 8 BVS meeting, and that the BVS had voted to endorse all six of the JLC’s objectives.

The Council discussed recent events related to the JLC objective supporting the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children. Specific discussion focused on Senator Stolle's comments in the Virginian-Pilot, Delegate Mark Cole's bill – HB395, Mr. Wilder's letter to Senator Colgan, and the estimated cost of \$1 per student.

Chairman Boyer asked how the JLC should ensure that the JLC position papers are distributed widely to legislators. Mr. Wilder suggested that this be done through the JLC Annual Report, and Chairman Boyer agreed.

Chairman Boyer briefed the Council on the "Day of Western Music and Fun" at the McGuire VA Medical Center on October 5. He told the Council that the event was sponsored by Phil and Alisa Rogers, and that the JLC served as a co-host for the event. He added that there may be other opportunities for the JLC to co-host other events in the future.

Discussion turned to the TurboVet System and potential sources of funding. Mr. Wilder discussed the set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that he is working with DVS to develop. Mr. Wilder told the Council about recent discussions with Senator Stosch and Bill Flanagan, legislative assistant to Delegate Cox.

Commissioner Burgess said that in his opinion, it is highly unlikely that DVS would receive any funding for TurboVet this fiscal year. He said that he thought that a good course would be for the JLC to seek budget language directing the Department to develop the TurboVet System, subject to funding. Also discussed was the possibility of a treasury loan to develop the system. Commissioner Burgess added that DVS would continue to develop the pilot system using the \$50,000 provided by the 2008 General Assembly.

Jenny Holbert asked if the JLC had examined which of its objectives have a reasonable chance of success, given the current economic situation. Chairman Boyer said that he agreed with the earlier statement made by Mr. Hilgers – that the JLC's objectives state what is needed by Virginia's veterans. He added that the JLC would be willing to negotiate on what is possible.

Chairman Boyer asked Mr. Combs to update the Council on two issues that the Council had asked the Department to study – the Missing in America Project and Alternative Sentencing Options for Veterans.

Mr. Combs said that the Department was still researching the Alternative Sentencing issue. He then pointed the members to the DVS Point Paper on the Missing in America Project (MIAP), included in the agenda packet. He reminded the members that this issue was brought to the Council by John Bonnell of the Marine Corps League, and noted that Mr. Bonnell sits on the MIAP Virginia State Council.

Mr. Combs said that there were two sections of the Code of Virginia that are most applicable to the MIAP, and noted that the Code of Virginia provides for the disposition of unclaimed cremated remains (cremains). He said that the Code would allow a funeral home to transfer unclaimed cremains of a veteran to a state or national veterans cemetery, but does not require the

funeral home to determine veteran status. He stated that DVS can work with funeral homes to identify those sets of unclaimed cremains which belong to veterans, and that DVS will provide a dignified memorial service and final resting place for the unclaimed cremains of veterans. He concluded by saying that DVS has spoken with Mr. Bonnell about providing an honor guard at the memorial services.

Ms. Holbert asked if there would be any cost to DVS. Mr. Combs replied that there would be some administrative and operational costs, but that the Department wouldn't have to pay the funeral homes for the cremains. Mr. Bonnell added that the MIAP was a volunteer organization, and that the honor guard was provided by volunteers.

### **Preparation for next meeting**

Led by Chairman Boyer

Chairman Boyer stated that the next JLC meeting will be held on December 18, 2008, and that the primary goals of the meeting would be to:

- Review the Governor's proposed budget and its impact on the JLC Legislative Objectives
- Prioritize the JLC Legislative Objectives
- Prepare for the JLC Day at the General Assembly

Mr. Wilder asked if the JLC could have feedback from the Governor's Policy Office on the JLC Legislative Objectives. Commissioner Burgess replied that this was unlikely, but that it might be possible to arrange for a representative of the Secretary of Public Safety to speak to the group. He added that he and Mr. Combs would strategize on how to make this happen.

Mr. Ellis gave the Council notice of the Veterans Day ceremony at the Fredericksburg Area War Memorial, November 8 at 10:30 a.m.

### **Public Comment Period**

Charlie Sloan of the Veterans of Foreign Wars told the Council of new Medicare Program Benefits for VA Category 1 Medicare Veterans. He stated that the program was developed by the VFW and is being tested as a pilot in select counties in Virginia and North Carolina. He said that the Council members are welcome to contact him for more information. Mr. Sloan's memorandum outlining the new program is included as Attachment 6 to these minutes.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to close the meeting.



## **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS October 15, 2008**

The Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees met on August 6, 2008. The meeting:

- (1) Conducted a Board of Trustees Orientation in which the Chairs of the BVS and JLC participated.
- (2) Approved the Foundation In-Kind Donations Policy.
- (3) Reviewed Foundation fund raising conducted during July 08.
- (4) Reviewed FY 09 fund raising requirements which were adopted by the Development Committee
- (5) Reviewed FY09 Goals and Objectives based on the Strategic Planning Initiative
- (6) Appointed new members to Standing Committees.
- (7) Held Standing Committee meetings.

Eight new citizen members of the Foundation Board of Trustees (listed in the last Foundation report to BVS) were sworn in by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Katherine Hanley. Secretary Hanley gave the board a stirring account of a severely wounded soldier, which was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

Foundation fund raising for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) conducted with the support of the Military Family Support Centers (MFSC) concluded with the final report pending action by the MFSC. The Foundation, in conjunction with the Lakeview Golf Club in Harrisonburg, held two successful fund raising golf events: a July event netted over \$5,000 and the September tournament netted over \$24,000. Veterans Services Organizations are starting to support the Wounded Warrior fund raising goal of \$150,000 for FY09. Attached is a VWWP FAQ sheet with a pledge form for individuals and organizations to use to help support fundraising for this program.

The Board Development Committee has been working on developing a public outreach and branding plan and compiling potential donor lists.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2008. The meeting will be held at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond. Items for the next meeting include: (1) adoption of FY09 goals and objectives, (2) clarification of the role of the Financial Committee stated in the ByLaws, (3) report on fund raising results, (4) discussion of public outreach and donor identification plans; (5) discussion of fundraising programs for FY 09 and FY10; and (6) review of VSF Strategic Planning.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Wickersham, VSF Chairman

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations DVS Commissioner's Report October 15, 2008**

- Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP)
  - Executive Director hired: Catherine Wilson, Captain, USN (Ret)
  - Significant near-term actions include:
    - Program Set Up: July – December 2008
    - Hiring Regional Directors: interviews scheduled for next two weeks
    - Virginia Wounded Warrior Program Summit – “Painting a Moving Train” at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville: November 6 and 7, 2008
    - Community funds distribution: January – March 2009
- TurboVet
  - \$100,000 appropriated by 2008 General Assembly to continue development
    - \$50,000 reduction proposed
  - DVS working with VA and National Defense University on pilot program that could be part of national system
  - Virginia-only or regional system may still be needed as stopgap or if national efforts fail
- Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC)
  - SBVCC is now set up to receive the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reimbursement
    - The first check – \$473,000
  - The VA reimbursement (per diem) will make SBVCC more affordable to a greater number of veterans, as it will pay for 30% of the daily cost of care
- Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC)
  - VVCC is in the early stages of two capital improvement projects:
    - Expansion and resurfacing of the VVCC parking lot to accommodate the increased number of visitors to the facility
    - Improvements to the facility's delivery area to provide greater turnaround space for trucks. This will speed deliveries of supplies, food, and other material
- Benefits
  - In FY08, the VA Roanoke Regional office adjudicated 12,318 claims submitted by DVS on behalf of Virginia veterans. Over 63% of the claims were approved, and over \$28 million in retroactive payments were awarded

- Cemeteries
  - Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery: 591 burials in FY08
  - Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia: 213 burials in FY08
  - Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin:
    - Deed transfer ceremony was held on September 22. Governor Kaine, Congressman Boucher, Senator Edwards, other state and local officials, and many members of the veterans community were in attendance. JLC members Dan Boyer, Norm Jasper, Bob Gray, and Dale Chapman attended.
    - Architect will be selected later this month
    - Expected VA construction grant is \$7.8 million
- State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training
  - As of June 30, 2008, there were 846 Virginia facilities approved to provide education and training to eligible veterans and their dependents. This is an increase of 71 facilities from last year
  - In FY07, over 21,000 veterans used their G.I. Bill benefits at a post-secondary education facility in Virginia
  - These benefits totaled almost \$136 million
- Virginia War Memorial
  - On July 1, DVS assumed responsibility for providing administrative support to the Virginia War Memorial. This support was previously provided by the Department of General Services
  - Upcoming events include:
    - Veterans Day Ceremony: Tuesday, November 11, 10:00 a.m.
    - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony: Sunday, December 7, 2:00 p.m.
- DVS Budget
  - All state agencies were required to submit 5, 10, and 15 percent reduction plans in September
  - DVS goal was to minimize cuts in direct services to veterans

## ATTACHMENT 3

Adopted 2/23/05  
Proposed Changes 10/15/08

# JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

## CONSTITUTION

### Preamble

For God and Country, we the veterans of the Commonwealth of Virginia, have joined together to acknowledge our faith in our Creator; to reaffirm our belief in the principles of justice, freedom, democracy and loyalty to our country; to rededicate ourselves to the sanctity of our homes and our families; to re-establish the comradeship begun in our periods of service to our nation; and to pledge ourselves anew to the ideal of serving ~~our veterans~~ ***the veterans of the Commonwealth***, their families and survivors, and each other through our association of our various service organizations and this Joint Leadership Council.

### Article I - Organization

1. Organization Name. The name of this organization shall be the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations, hereinafter referred to as the JLC or the Council.
2. Organization Membership. The Council shall be composed of one representative from each qualifying veterans service organizations ***or his/her designated alternate***. Representatives shall be appointed by the Governor. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services and the Chairmen of the Board of Veterans Services ***and Veterans Services Foundation*** shall serve as non-voting, *ex officio* members.
3. Location of Headquarters. The Headquarters of the JLC shall operate in a manner and place as determined by the Chairperson to be most effective. ~~The Chairperson's parent veterans service organization headquarters, if the organization agrees, may be used to provide administrative support to the Chairperson and other elected/appointed officers.~~ The office of the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services ~~also~~ is available to the Chairperson and elected/appointed officials at their request.

### Article II – Operating Principles

1. Aim and Purpose. As a separate and distinct entity of veterans service organizations of Virginia, it is the JLC's objective to be mindful of and to address and advocate for the needs of Virginia's veterans.

2. Jurisdictional Control. The JLC consists of volunteer, non-profit organizations and is self-governing. It exercises control over procedures and matters discussed in accordance with this Constitution and all duly approved By-Laws and operating procedures.
3. Solidarity. The JLC is organized as a single body that expresses its purposes at meetings held at times and places approved by its members.
4. Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution and By-Laws of the JLC, along with duly approved procedures, once ratified, will be the governing authority of the JLC.
5. Non-partisan. The JLC shall be non-partisan and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles, or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office.
6. Support of Veterans Programs. The JLC, through its elected/appointed officials, and through its member organizations, shall publicize, promote, and lobby for priority veterans programs that are presented to, approved by, and prioritized by the JLC at its Regular or Special Meetings. The JLC recognizes the individuality and sovereignty of each service organization. In some cases, support and prioritization of issues may differ. In the rare instances in which differences arise, each organization shall have the right to abstain from support, or to establish its own legislative priorities.

### **Article III – Eligibility and Representation**

1. Eligibility. Qualifying veterans service organizations shall be 1) composed principally of and controlled by veterans of the United States Armed Forces, 2) a registered nonprofit organization in good standing, incorporated for the purpose of promoting programs designed to assist veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their Virginia-domiciled surviving spouses, orphans, and dependents, and 3) active and in good standing with its parent national organization, if such a parent organization exists. In order to qualify for membership, veterans service organizations should provide the following documentation to the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Department of Veterans Services:
  - a. Congressional Charter or Articles of Incorporation – To show that the organization is “composed principally of and controlled by veterans of the United States Armed Forces” and that the organization was “incorporated for the purpose of promoting programs designed to assist ***Virginia-domiciled*** veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their ~~Virginia-domiciled surviving~~ ***eligible*** spouses, orphans, and dependent
  - b. By-Laws – To show that the organization is “composed principally of and controlled by veterans of the United States Armed Forces” and that the organization was “incorporated for the purpose of promoting programs designed to assist ***Virginia-domiciled*** veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their ~~Virginia-domiciled surviving~~ ***eligible*** spouses, orphans, and dependents”;

- c. Letter from the Internal Revenue Service designating its status as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4), organization – To show that the organization is “a registered nonprofit organization in good standing”;
  - d. A statement of good standing from the parent organization, if such an organization exists – To show that the organization is “active and in good standing with its parent national organization”; and
  - e. Confirmation from the State Corporation Commission of the current status of the organization, if available – To show that the organization is “in good standing.”
2. Representation. Each member organization is responsible for recommending a member for appointment to the Council by the Governor. When appointed, this member will act on behalf of his/her organization.
- a. Representatives shall be appointed for terms of three years.
  - b. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the un-expired terms.
  - c. No person shall be eligible to serve for or during more than two successive three-year terms.
  - d. If a representative cannot attend a Council meeting, he/she may ask ***designate*** an alternate to attend the meeting in his/her place. ~~While the alternate may participate in group discussions and otherwise represent his/her organization, he/she may not vote.~~ ***When representing his/her organization, the alternate shall have the same responsibilities and duties as the appointed representative.***

## **Article IV – Meetings and Voting**

### 1. Meetings.

- a. Regular Meetings ~~will~~ ***may*** be held according to the following schedule:
  - i. First quarter (January – March): one meeting per month while the General Assembly is in session
  - ii. Second quarter (April – June): one meeting
  - iii. Third quarter (July – September): one meeting
  - iv. Fourth quarter (October – December): one meeting
- b. Unscheduled Meetings may be called by the Chairperson, upon the written request of two or more organization representatives.
- c. Special Meetings with the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services may be called by the Chairperson, upon the written request of two or more organization representatives.

- d. Meeting Locations: Council meetings may be held in any locality in the Commonwealth, with the exception of the first quarter meetings, which will be held in Richmond.
- e. Quorum Determination: A majority of the voting members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

## 2. Voting.

- a. Each ~~organization's representative~~ **organization** shall have one vote.
- b. ~~Only appointed representatives are entitled to vote.~~ ***If the appointed representative is not in attendance, the designated alternate may vote.***
- c. An individual may represent only one organization.
- d. At the direction of the Chairperson, the Secretary/Parliamentarian will request and record the vote of each organization.
- e. A majority of the votes cast will decide the issue unless otherwise specified by the Constitution and/or By-Laws. Roll call votes will be taken under the following circumstances:
  - i. Upon a proposed change of the Constitution or By-Laws; and
  - ii. When requested by at least three member organization representatives.

## Article V - Officers

- 1. Elected Officers. The following officers will be elected:
  - a. Chairperson; and
  - b. Vice-Chairperson.
- 2. Appointed Officers. The following officers will be appointed by the Chairperson, subject to confirmation of the JLC membership:
  - a. ~~Secretary/Parliamentarian~~
  - b. Legislative Officer
  - c. Chaplain
- 3. Election of Officers.

- a. Election of officers will be held every year during the regular ~~second~~ **third** quarter meeting.
- b. The Chairperson may not serve two consecutive terms.
- c. Candidates must declare their intention to run for office at the ~~last first~~ **second** quarter meeting. If a candidate cannot attend the meeting, he/she should declare his/her intent in a letter to the Chairperson, who will read the letter at the meeting.
- d. Elections will be by voice vote.
- e. Elections shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast. If a candidate fails to achieve a majority vote on the first ballot, the two candidates with the most votes will be voted on by a second ballot.
- f. Newly elected officers will ~~immediately~~ assume the responsibility of the position to which they were elected ***at the conclusion of the meeting during which the election occurs.***
- g. Prior to the ~~third~~ **fourth** quarter meeting, the new Chairperson will nominate Appointed Officers. The nominations will be submitted to the members one month prior to the ~~third~~ **fourth** quarter meeting.
- h. Appointed officers will be confirmed by a majority of votes cast. Confirmation will take place at the ~~third~~ **fourth** quarter meeting.
- i. Outgoing officers will turn over all official records pertaining to their office to the newly elected or appointed officers.

## **Article VI - Finances**

Organizational Dues. No organizational dues will be assessed.

## Article VII – By-Laws

1. Authorization for By-Laws. Suitable By-Laws shall be enacted by the JLC to establish operating procedures. Adoption will require approval of two-thirds of those members present and eligible to vote.
2. Amendment of By-Laws. By-Laws may be amended, repealed or altered, in whole or in part, at any Regular Meeting, or at any Special Meeting called for that purpose, by the vote of two-thirds of the total authorized votes cast by the organizational representatives present and voting at that particular meeting, provided that the proposed changes shall have been furnished, in writing, to each organizational representative at least fifteen days in advance of the meeting at which the proposed changes will be voted upon.



## **Article VIII – Constitutional Amendments**

Constitutional Amendments. This Constitution may be amended at any Regular or Special Meeting of the JLC, provided the following conditions are met:

1. All organizational representatives have been furnished copies of proposed changes at least thirty days in advance of the proposed meeting date.
2. All organizational representatives have been advised of the date, time, and place of the JLC meeting at which the proposed changes will be voted upon.
3. Proposed changes are approved by two-thirds of the members present and voting.

## ATTACHMENT 4

Adopted 2/23/05  
Proposed Changes 10/15/08

# JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS BY-LAWS

## Article I – Officers and Their Roles

1. Chairperson (Elected Officer). The Chairperson of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC, or, the Council) shall be the Chief Executive of the JLC. He or she shall:
  - a. Preside at all meetings.
  - b. Enforce the Constitution, By-Laws and duly approved operating procedures.
  - c. In cooperation with other officers and Council members, be responsible for furthering the aims and purposes of the Council.
  - d. Advise the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services, the members of the General Assembly, and the Governor of Virginia on veteran-related matters.
  - e. Promote those legislative programs and recommendations approved and prioritized by the JLC.
  - f. Appoint those officers named in Article V, Paragraph 2, of the JLC Constitution to serve a term concurrent with his or her own, subject to confirmation by Council members. He or she shall nominate replacements, as needed.
  - g. *Attend meetings of other Department of Veterans Services Boards as specified in the Code of Virginia and other Commonwealth board and committees dealing with veterans' issues. In the event that neither the Chairperson nor the Vice-Chairperson can attend, appoint a JLC member or alternate member to attend, represent the JLC, and report the meeting results to the Council.*
2. Vice-Chairperson (Elected Officer). The Vice-Chairperson shall:
  - a. ~~Preside, in~~ *In the absence of the Chairperson, **preside** at all meetings of the JLC and attend other veterans related meetings as required in Article I, Paragraph 1.g. or appoint a JLC member or alternate to attend, represent the JLC, and report the meeting results to the Council.*
  - b. Keep him or herself fully informed of all issues and activities in which the JLC is involved.
  - c. In the event of the stated, or obvious, inability of the Chairperson to perform his or her assigned duties, assume those responsibilities until the JLC has elected a new chairperson.
3. Secretary/Parliamentarian (~~Appointed Officer~~). The Secretary/Parliamentarian shall:

- a. Take charge and arrange for the safekeeping of all administrative records and files of the JLC.
- b. Record, publish, and distribute minutes of all Regular and Special Meetings.
- c. Maintain a record of currently approved Council members and their contact information.
- d. Inform Council members of the dates, times and locations of all meetings.
- e. Prepare and distribute materials to Council members at the request of the Chairperson.
- f. Receive and safeguard pertinent information furnished to the JLC by Officers, Committee Chairpersons, Council members, or outside sources.

Note: The ~~Chairperson may ask the~~ Department of Veterans Services ~~to~~ **shall** perform the functions of the Secretary/Parliamentarian.

4. Legislative Officer (Appointed Officer). The Legislative Officer shall:
  - a. Review all legislative issues pertaining to veterans and advise the Chairperson and Council members of recommended actions to be taken.
  - b. Assist the Chairperson in ensuring that appropriate government agencies, legislators, and policymakers are aware of JLC positions on veterans' issues.
  - c. Obtain information from Federal and State governments, or other sources, as determined necessary to formulate or justify proposed legislation.
5. Chaplain (Appointed Officer). As requested by the Chairperson, the Chaplain shall:
  - a. Open and close meetings with an appropriate prayer.
  - b. Send an appropriate greeting card to Council members at times of sickness or grief.
  - c. Perform other duties as required.

## **Article II – Committees**

1. Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee. ~~The Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee will, on an annual basis, review the JLC Constitution and By-Laws and make recommendations for changes in accordance with the provisions of the JLC Constitution.~~ ***Every two years the Chairperson shall appoint a Committee Chair and appropriate number of committee members to form a Constitution and By-Laws review committee which shall review the JLC Constitution and By-Laws and suggest recommendations for changes in accordance with the provisions of the JLC Constitution.***
2. Legislative Committee. The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to promote the legislative agenda of the JLC and other legislative duties as directed by the JLC Chairperson. ~~Two~~ Council members will be appointed to this committee by the JLC Chairperson to work under the leadership of the Legislative Officer. ***If approved by the JLC, the Chair may appoint alternate members to the Committee.***

### **Article III – Quorum Requirements**

No official business of the JLC shall be conducted unless a majority of voting Council members, including an elected officer, is present.

### **Article IV – Use of *Roberts Rules of Order***

Procedural instances not otherwise provided for herein shall be governed by *Roberts Rules of Order*.

## **ATTACHMENT 5**

### **RAC/MOAA INITIAL “GROUP LEGISLATIVE EVENT” (2 October 2008 @ Virginia War Memorial-Richmond, Va.)**

#### **ORIGIN OF CONCEPT**

The concept of a “Group Legislative Event” resulted from a meeting I requested with State Senator Walter Stosch to determine why our 2008 JLC Objective on HB395 (Military Dependents Educational Opportunities) was a “Carryover to 2009” issue by Senate Finance Committee in the 2008 Session. Please note, comment related to group meeting was “off-the-cuff” and NOT directed to how VSOs should conduct their legislative programs. The idea of a “Group Event” appeared to me an innovative approach for MOAA to consider. I discussed the idea with Col Sam Wilder (Legislative Chair of VCOC) and he agreed to place it on agenda for VCOC July 08 meeting. RAC/MOAA discussed our plan at meeting and agreed to host initial “Group Event” to determine merits and effectiveness of the concept.

#### **PLANNING THE “EVENT”/TARGET GOALS/TESTING THE CONCEPT**

RAC/MOAA developed a Planning Guide for review by its Legislative Committee and to “Accept the Challenge.” The guide covered suggested dates, times and locations for “The Event” along with proposed list of those members of the General Assembly (GA) to invite. RAC/MOAA Legislative Committee set following target goals for “The Event”:

- A. Call early attention to 2009 JLC State Legislative Objectives to GA attendees.
- B. Stimulate an “open dialog” by attendees to pros and cons on our Objectives.
- C. ID and “clear the mine-field” to any possible concerns to Objectives.
- D. Gain Patrons/Co-patrons for our Objectives in both the House and Senate.

It was agreed no action would start until the JLC approved its 2009 Objectives. Also the “Group Event” was NOT a replacement for normal one-on-one visits which will serve as follow-up on attendees’ continued support of Objectives.

To ensure our plan was valid, RAC/MOAA reviewed program with several members of the GA, with whom we had good relations, to gain their comments. All agreed holding “Event” in early October provided sufficient time for attendees to review and ask questions well in advance of the opening GA 2009 session, plus giving ample time for members to consider taking a Patron/Co-Patron position. Following positive comments, RAC/ MOAA, set project in motion.

#### **EXECUTION OF THE “EVENT”**

Assignments of Legislative Committee members to contact specific GA members was issued. It was requested callers report all comments by GA members to RAC/MOAA Legislative Chair to monitor results and make required changes or contingency plans. Calls were made to 6 State Senators and 16 House Delegates which form the Central Virginia Legislative Caucus to attend our 2 October event at the Virginia War Memorial. (While attendance did not meet our full expectations for over 50% of invited guests, we did attract 2 key Senators and 7 recognized House leaders). Following calls, formal e-mail invitations were sent along with listing of 2009

JLC Legislative Objectives. We had hoped to include copies of “Position Papers” in mailing but they were not ready. A decision was made not to delay mailing, which may have had minor impact upon the overall program. “Position Papers” would be hand-outs at “Event.” Having made this comment, believe we had an excellent turn-out, when one considers: (1) “Event” was three months ahead of GA’s opening 2009 session,(2) It started at 0700 hrs, to permit attendees to address their personal/business commitments that day, and (3) We were competing with a GA Agricultural Retreat which may have taken 4 or 5 potential attendees from the “Event.”

RAC/MOAA in its opening remarks requested attendees to be vocal and share their feelings, Pro or Con, to ensure we had a successful “Event.” Attendees honored us with an excellent dialog on JLC Objectives between attendees. Additional suggestions were offered which may result in positive solutions to several Objectives, possibly eliminating need for legislative action by the General Assembly. Our pre-Event and Event program produced 3 Patrons and 1 Co-Patron, providing a great start in this area over earlier programs and well in advance of 2009 GA opening session.

### **SUMMARY OF THE TANGIBLE RESULTS**

- Excellent meeting dialog between attendees on JLC Objectives.
- Suggestions by attendees may offer viable solutions to several JLC Objectives to benefit the Military Community in Va.
- Early awareness by attending GA members to JLC Objectives.
- Provide solid base for follow-up visits to insure continued support on JLC Objectives.
- Gained some key Patrons to introduce GA bills on JLC Objectives.

Reviewing all factors, RAC/MOAA Legislative Committee considered initial VSO “Group Legislative Event” met expectations and currently plan to conduct the program again next year.

### **AFTER ACTION ACTIVITY**

RAC/MOAA to critique program at chapter’s up-coming Legislative meeting to determine areas for improvement for future “Events” to include:

- Holding Spring 2009 Committee briefing sessions to prepare those giving presentations a better understanding of details related to each Objective to more effectively address Q&A session.
- Other improvements to be implemented as result of our critique.

### **SHARING OF PROGRAM PLANS/DETAILS WITH OTHER VSOs**

RAC/MOAA will gladly support other VSOs, having interest in conducting a similar “Event” in their area, with details related to our recent program.

Submitted by:

Col Donald B Kaiserman

RAC/MOAA Legislative Committee Chair

10 October 2008

## **ATTACHMENT 6**

### **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

#### **PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICARE BENEFITS**

1 Oct 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Virginia Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

SUBJECT: New Medicare Program Benefits VA Category 1 Medicare Veterans

Dear Comrades,

The Centers For Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS/ "Medicare") has approved a new Medicare Advantage Plan for 2009 that will be of significant benefit to VA Category 1 Medicare veterans (50-100% disabled, or deemed unemployable) who receive their health care primarily within the VA health network for free, yet continue to pay their monthly Medicare Part B premiums to CMS.

This new \$0 premium plan, a result of the VA/NC Partnership in cooperation with a major U.S. health provider, will refund 100% of the monthly Medicare Part B premiums, for an annual Social Security refund of up to \$1,156.80! Along with the refund, the plan will also provide annual contributions towards Dental and Vision benefits that may not be provided by Original Medicare or the VA.

Again, there is no monthly premium for this plan and it will have no effect on the veterans VA benefits. This plan has been approved by CMS effective 1 January 2009, and it will be available for Medicare veterans living in select counties in North Carolina and Virginia:

**Virginia Counties:** Amelia, Botetourt, Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Craig, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Franklin, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, King and Queen, Louisa, New Kent, Petersburg City, Powhatan, Prince George, Richmond City, Roanoke, Roanoke City, Salem City, Sussex

The annual enrollment window for 2009 is limited and VA Category 1 veterans are urged to contact the company directly at: 1-877-346-5034, 8am to 8pm, local time, seven days a week for enrollment information. Please contact us anytime at 1-866-633-2226.



Charles E. Sloan  
Department of Virginia  
Partnership Chairman